

1. A method for introducing into a naturally non-isoflavonoid-producing plant species the enzyme catalyzing the aryl migration of a flavanone to form an isoflavanone intermediate or an isoflavone, comprising:

introducing a DNA segment encoding said enzyme into said plant to form a transgenic
5 plant, wherein said transgenic plant expresses said DNA segment under the control of a suitable constitutive or inducible promoter when said transgenic plant is exposed to conditions which permit expression.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein chalcone synthase, chalcone reductase, and chalcone isomerase genes are also expressed in said plant to cause in vivo formation of daidzein or a daidzein derivative.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein said plant is further transformed to comprise said chalcone synthase, chalcone reductase, and chalcone isomerase genes.

4. The method of Claim 1 or 2, wherein said plant further comprises downstream genes to metabolize said formed isoflavanone intermediate or isoflavone to biologically active isoflavonoid derivatives or conjugates.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein said downstream gene is selected from the group consisting of isoflavone *O*-methyltransferase, isoflavone 2'-hydroxylase, isoflavone reductase, and vestitone reductase.

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein said plant comprises down-stream gene 4'-*O*-methyltransferase to form biochanin A or a biochanin A derivative.

7. A method for increasing the level of isoflavonoid compounds in naturally isoflavonoid-producing plants comprising:

introducing a DNA segment encoding the enzyme catalyzing the aryl migration of a flavanone to yield an isoflavonoid to form a transgenic plant, wherein said transgenic plant
5 expresses said DNA segment under the control of a suitable constitutive or inducible promoter when said transgenic plant is exposed to conditions which permit expression.

8. The method of Claim 7, wherein said isoflavonoid is selected from the group consisting of an isoflavanone intermediate, an isoflavone, an isoflavone derivative, and an isoflavone conjugate.

9. The method of Claim 1 or 7, wherein said DNA segment comprises isolated genomic DNA.

10. The method of Claim 1 or 7, wherein said DNA segment comprises recombinant cDNA.

11. The method of Claim 1 or 7, wherein said DNA segment comprises CYP93C gene.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein said gene consists of the sequence from nucleotide 36 to nucleotide 1598 of the sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:1.

13. The method of Claim 1 or 7, wherein said DNA segment is a *Medicago truncatula* homolog of a CYP93C gene.

14. The method of Claim 12, wherein said gene consists of the sequence from nucleotide 92 to nucleotide 1657 of the sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:4.

15. The method of Claim 1 or 7, wherein said flavanone is liquiritigenin.

16. The method of Claim 1 or 7, wherein said flavanone is naringenin.

17. The method of Claim 1 or 7, wherein said transgenic plant possesses an isoflavonoid which is isolated from said plant and used to prepare a food.

18. The method of Claim 1 or 7, wherein said transgenic plant possesses an isoflavonoid which is isolated from said plant and used to prepare a food stuff, a nutritional supplement, an animal feed supplement, a nutraceutical, or a pharmaceutical.

19. The method of Claim 1 or 7, wherein said transgenic plant possesses an isoflavonoid which provides a pharmaceutical benefit to a patient.

20. A method for synthesizing an isoflavonone intermediate or an isoflavone from a flavanone by expressing a recombinant CYP93C gene segment in a suitable bacterial, fungal, algal, or insect cell system.

21. A method of reducing the levels of isoflavonoid compounds in a naturally isoflavonoid-producing plant comprising introducing and expressing an antisense or gene silencing construct that contains an intact CYP93C gene or segments thereof into said plant.

22. The method of Claim 20 or 21, wherein said gene consists of the sequence from nucleotide 36 to nucleotide 1598 of the sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:1.

23. The method of Claim 20 or 21, wherein said gene consists of the sequence from nucleotide 92 to nucleotide 1657 of the sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:4.

24. A naturally non-isoflavonoid producing plant cell transformed by introducing a DNA segment encoding the enzyme catalyzing the aryl migration of a flavanone to form an isoflavanone intermediate or an isoflavone, wherein said transgenic plant cell expresses said DNA segment under the control of a suitable constitutive or inducible promoter when exposed to conditions which permit expression.

25. The plant cell of Claim 24, wherein chalcone synthase, chalcone reductase, and chalcone isomerase genes are also expressed in said plant to cause in vivo formation of daidzein or a daidzein derivative.

26. The plant cell of Claim 25, wherein said plant cell is further transformed to comprise said chalcone synthase, chalcone reductase, and chalcone isomerase genes.

27. The plant cell of Claim 24 or 25, wherein said plant cell further comprises downstream genes to metabolize said formed isoflavanone intermediate or isoflavone to biologically active isoflavonoid derivatives or conjugates.

28. The plant cell of Claim 27, wherein said downstream gene is selected from the group consisting of isoflavone *O*-methyltransferase, isoflavone 2'-hydroxylase, isoflavone reductase, and vestitone reductase.

29. The plant cell of Claim 28, wherein said plant cell comprises downstream gene 4'-*O*-methyltransferase to form biochanin A or a biochanin A derivative.

30. A naturally isoflavonoid-producing plant cell transformed by introducing a DNA segment encoding the enzyme catalyzing the aryl migration of a flavanone to yield an isoflavonoid to form a transformed plant cell, wherein said transformed plant cell expresses said DNA segment under the control of a suitable constitutive or inducible promoter when exposed to conditions which
5 permit expression.

31. The plant cell of Claim 30, wherein said isoflavonoid is selected from the group consisting of an isoflavonone intermediate, an isoflavone, an isoflavone derivative, and an isoflavone conjugate.

32. The plant cell of Claim 24, 30 or 31, wherein said DNA segment comprises isolated genomic DNA.

33. The plant cell of Claim 24, 30 or 31, wherein said DNA segment comprises recombinant cDNA.

34. The plant cell of Claim 24, 30 or 31, wherein said DNA segment comprises CYP93C gene.

35. The plant cell of Claim 34, wherein said DNA segment consists of the sequence from nucleotide 36 to nucleotide 1598 of the sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:1.

36. The plant cell of Claim 24, 30 or 31, wherein said DNA segment is a *Medicago truncatula* homolog of a CYP93C gene.

37. The plant cell of Claim 36, wherein said gene consists of the sequence from nucleotide 92 to nucleotide 1657 of the sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:4.

38. A transgenic plant cell having reduced levels of isoflavonoid compounds, said plant cell transformed by introducing an antisense or gene silencing construct that contains an intact CYP93C gene or segments thereof into said plant cell.

39. The plant cell of Claim 38, wherein said gene consists of the sequence from nucleotide 36 to nucleotide 1598 of the sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:1.

40. The plant cell of Claim 38, wherein said gene consists of the sequence from nucleotide 92 to nucleotide 1657 of the sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:4.

41. An isolated gene or DNA segment comprising a portion which encodes a cytochrome P450 of the CYP93 family that can catalyze the aryl migration of a flavanone to yield an isoflavanone intermediate or an isoflavone, wherein said portion consists of nucleotide 36 to nucleotide 1598 of the sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:1.

42. The gene or DNA segment of Claim 41, wherein said gene is the soybean gene encoding the enzyme catalyzing the aryl migration of liquiritigenin.

43. The gene or DNA segment of Claim 41, wherein said gene is the soybean gene encoding the enzyme catalyzing the aryl migration of naringenin.

44. A protein encoded by a portion of an isolated gene or DNA segment which encodes a cytochrome P450 that can catalyze the aryl migration of a flavanone to yield an isoflavanone intermediate or an isoflavone, wherein said portion consists of nucleotide 36 to nucleotide 1598 of the sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:1.

45. An isolated gene or DNA segment comprising a portion which encodes a cytochrome P450 that can catalyze the aryl migration of a flavanone to yield an isoflavanone intermediate or an isoflavone, wherein said portion is a *Medicago truncatula* homolog of a CYP93C gene.

46. The gene or DNA segment of Claim 45 consisting of nucleotide 92 to nucleotide 1657 of the sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:4.

47. The gene or DNA segment of Claims 45 or 46, wherein said gene is the *Medicago truncatula* gene encoding the enzyme catalyzing the aryl migration of liquiritigenin.

48. The gene or DNA segment of Claims 45 or 46, wherein said gene is the *Medicago truncatula* gene encoding the enzyme catalyzing the aryl migration of naringenin.

49. A protein encoded by a portion of an isolated gene or DNA segment which encodes a cytochrome P450 that can catalyze the aryl migration of a flavanone to yield an isoflavanone intermediate or an isoflavone, wherein said portion is a *Medicago truncatula* homolog of a CYP93C gene.

50. A transgenic plant transformed with an isolated gene or DNA segment which encodes a cytochrome P450 that can catalyze the aryl migration of a flavanone to yield an isoflavanone intermediate or an isoflavone, wherein said transgenic plant exhibits increased levels of an isoflavonoid when compared to the level of said isoflavonoid in plants of the same species which do
5 not comprise said isolated gene or DNA segment.

51. The transgenic plant of Claim 50, wherein the level of bacterial or fungal symbiosis is increased.

52. The transgenic plant of Claim 50, wherein at least a portion of said transgenic plant is made into a composition suitable for ingestion as a food stuff, a nutritional supplement, an animal feed supplement, or a nutraceutical.

53. The transgenic plant of Claim 50, wherein at least a portion of said edible transgenic plant material capable of being ingested for its nutritional value is made into a food.

54. A method of preparing a nutraceutical composition for achieving a nutritional effect using a transgenic plant transformed with an isolated gene or DNA segment which encodes a cytochrome P450 that can catalyze the aryl migration of a flavanone to yield an isoflavanone intermediate or an isoflavone, wherein said transgenic plant exhibits increased levels of an isoflavonoid when compared to the level of said isoflavonoid in plants of the same species which do
not comprise said isolated gene or DNA segment.

55. A method of preparing a pharmaceutical composition for achieving a therapeutic effect using a transgenic plant transformed with an isolated gene or DNA segment which encodes a cytochrome P450 that can catalyze the aryl migration of a flavanone to yield an isoflavanone intermediate or an isoflavone, wherein said transgenic plant exhibits increased levels of an
5 isoflavonoid when compared to the level of said isoflavonoid in plants of the same species which do not comprise said isolated gene or DNA segment.

56. A method of using a transgenic plant transformed with an isolated gene or DNA segment which encodes a cytochrome P450 that can catalyze the aryl migration of a flavanone to yield an isoflavanone intermediate or an isoflavone, wherein said transgenic plant exhibits increased levels of an isoflavonoid when compared to the level of said isoflavonoid in plants of the same species which do not comprise said isolated gene or DNA segment to provide a nutraceutical benefit to a human or animal administered said isoflavonoid.

57. The method of Claim 56, wherein said isoflavonoid is administered by ingestion of at least a portion of said plant.

58. The method of Claim 56, wherein said isoflavonoid is administered by ingestion of a composition comprising an isoflavonoid isolated from said plant.

59. A method of transforming a plant with an isolated gene or DNA segment which encodes a cytochrome P450 that can catalyze the aryl migration of a flavanone to yield an isoflavanone intermediate or an isoflavone, wherein said transgenic plant exhibits increased levels of an isoflavonoid when compared to the level of said isoflavonoid in plants of the same species which do not comprise said isolated gene or DNA segment.

60. The method of Claim 59, wherein the nutritional value of said plant is increased.

61. The method of Claim 59, wherein the disease resistance in said plant is increased.

62. The method of Claim 59, wherein bacterial or fungal symbiosis in said plant is increased.

63. The method of claim 59, wherein said plant is a leguminous plant.

64. The method of claim 63, wherein the nodulation efficiency of said plant is increased.

65. A leguminous transgenic plant exhibiting increased nodulation efficiency, wherein said transgenic plant is transformed with an isolated gene or DNA segment which encodes a cytochrome P450 that can catalyze the aryl migration of a flavanone to yield an isoflavanone intermediate or an isoflavone, wherein said transgenic plant exhibits increased levels of an isoflavonoid when compared to the level of said isoflavonoid in plants of the same species which do not comprise said isolated gene or DNA segment.

66. A transgenic plant comprising at least one recombinant DNA sequence encoding a cytochrome P450 that can catalyze the aryl migration of a flavanone to yield an isoflavanone intermediate or an isoflavone, wherein said transgenic plant exhibits an increased level of an isoflavonoid when compared to the level of said isoflavonoid in plants of the same species which do not comprise said recombinant DNA sequence.

67. Seed from a transgenic plant comprising at least one recombinant DNA sequence encoding a cytochrome P450 that can catalyze the aryl migration of a flavanone to yield an isoflavanone intermediate or an isoflavone, wherein said transgenic plant exhibits an increased level of an isoflavonoid when compared to the level of said isoflavonoid in plants of the same species which do not comprise said recombinant DNA sequence.

68. Progeny from a transgenic plant comprising at least one recombinant DNA sequence encoding a cytochrome P450 that can catalyze the aryl migration of a flavanone to yield an isoflavanone intermediate or an isoflavone, wherein said transgenic plant exhibits an increased level of an isoflavonoid when compared to the level of said isoflavonoid in plants of the same species which do not comprise said recombinant DNA sequence.

69. Progeny from seed of a transgenic plant comprising at least one recombinant DNA sequence encoding a cytochrome P450 that can catalyze the aryl migration of a flavanone to yield an isoflavanone intermediate or an isoflavone, wherein said transgenic plant exhibits an increased level of an isoflavonoid when compared to the level of said isoflavonoid in plants of the same species which do not comprise said recombinant DNA sequence.